

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1625

LIMDIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR AKINS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OECD, OPEC

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ENERGY SPEECH OF WALTER LEVY

REF: THE HAGUE 1480

1. WANSINK, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ENERGY AND CHAIRMAN OF OECD OIL COMMITTEE, RELATED FOLLOWING TO AMBASSADOR MIDDEINDORF ON MARCH 29.

2. VAN LENNEP, SECRETARY GENERAL OF OECD, INFORMED WANSINK THAT WALTER LEVY, WHO HAD JUST ADVOCATED ATLANTIC- JAPANESE ENERGY COOPERATION AT EUROPE- AMERICA CONFERENCE (REFTEL), HAD BEEN ENGAGED AS CONSULTANT TO OECD OIL COMMITTEE. WANSINK OBJECTED THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH OIL COMMITTEE AND SAID IT MUST BE HELD UP. WHEN VAN LENNEP INSISTED THAT DEAL WAS ALREADY MADE, WANSINK HELD THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE RESCINDED OR HE WOULD RESIGN AS CHAIRMAN. AT THIS POINT VAN LENNEP AGREED NOT TO PROCEED WITH ARRANGEMENT WITH LEVY.

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3. REASON FOR WANSINK'S ATTITUDE BECAME APPARENT WHEN WANSINK EXPRESSED HIS REACTION TO LEVY SPEECH. HE FELT THAT HIGH LEVEL, PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF LEVY'S PROPOSAL AND BALK TERMS IN WHICH IT WAS EXPRESSED CONSTITUTED HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE ACT WHICH WOULD BE MOST DAMAGING TO ANY PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATION. IF OECD SHOULD APPEAR TO ENDORSE LEVY'S VIEWS BY HIRING HIM AS CONSULTANT, IT MIGHT TRIGGER EXTREME OPEC REACTION. IN WANSINK'S OPINION, PUBLIC PROPOSAL MAY INDUCE JAPAN, REGARDLESS OF FACT OECD DOES NOT HIRE LEVY, NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSUMER GROUP. JAPAN WILL FORESEE OPEC REACTION AND MAY TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERCUT ATLANTIC CONSUMERS BY MAKING SEPARATE DEAL WITH OPEC. SITUATION WAS WORSENER BY FACT THAT AT LEVY PRESENTATION QUESTION WAS ASKED FROM AUDIENCE WHETHER MILITARY ACTION BY CONSUMER GROUP WAS CONTEMPLATED AND QUESTION WAS NOT ANSWERED, IMPLYING THAT THIS WAS NOT RULED OUT. WANSINK CONCLUDES FROM ALL THIS THAT IF OIL COMMITTEE NOW RETAINED LEVY AS CONSULTANT, IT WOULD END ANY POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION APPROACH WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO OPEC. MOREOVER, IT WOULD FORCE IRAN, KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA, STILL ORIENTED TOWARD THE WEST, INTO ANTI-WESTERN CAMP OF IRAQ, LIBYA AND SYRIA.

4. COMMENT: US OECD MAY HAVE FURTHER BACKGROUND ON LEVY CONSULTANCY CONTRACT. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, EMBASSIES IN OPEC CAPITALS COULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE HOST GOVERNMENTS THAT CONSUMER COUNTRIES' INTEREST IS IN EFFICIENT, COOPERATIVE USE OF SUCH ENERGY RESOURCES AS MAY BE AVAILABLE RATHER THAN IN AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST SUPPLIERS.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DECIDE ON FURTHER DISTRIBUTION ON THIS REPORT.
MIDDENDORF

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